

LOCATION: **PORTLAND, OR**

REPORT(S): **Promoting Reusable Checkout Bags in Portland – One Year Report (2012)**

## ORDINANCE SUMMARY

**Passed: 2011 / Implemented: 2011 / Expanded 2012**  
**Ordinance No. :** 184759 (Code Chapter 17.103)

### PLASTIC SUMMARY:

- Bans plastic bags that are less than 4.0 mil thick
- Plastic bags must be 4.0 mil or thicker to be considered “reusable”
- Must be recyclable

### PAPER SUMMARY:

- No fee on paper bags
- Paper bags must contain recycled content
- Paper bags must be recyclable

## ORDINANCE ASSESSMENT

### KEY FINDINGS:

- Reusable bags use increased 304%<sup>1</sup> (pg. 1)
- Highly recycled paper bags used increased 491%<sup>1</sup> (pg. 1)
- Zero penalties were issued to retailers for non-compliance with the ordinance<sup>1</sup> (pg. 1)
- After the release of the One Year Report (2012), the Portland City Council voted unanimously to expand the ordinance to all retailers in the city.<sup>2</sup> (pg. 1)

## RESOURCES

<sup>1</sup>Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, *Promoting Reusable Checkout Bags in Portland*. Portland, OR: 2012.

<sup>2</sup> Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, *Important Information Regarding New Plastic Checkout Bag Polity*. Portland, OR: 2012.

**Portland, OR Carryout Bag Ordinance:** [LINK TO ORDINANCE](#)

**Promoting Reusable Checkout Bags in Portland – One Year Report:** [LINK TO REPORT](#)

**Important Information Regarding New Plastic Checkout Bag Policy:** [LINK TO MEMO](#)